

Message Text

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USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105303

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 105303 ACTION MOSCOW INFO PARIS PHNOM
PENH 20 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CB

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN CAMBODIA

REF: MOSCOW 7165

1. WE BELIEVE THAT WITH THE COMMUNIST DRY SEASON
OFFENSIVE IN FULL SWING IN CAMBODIA YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE
TO SOVIET OFFICIALS (A) STEADFASTNESS OF US SUPPORT FOR
GKR'S SELF-DEFENSE AND (B) FUTILITY OF CURRENT KHMER ROUGE
OFFENSIVE AGAINST PROVINCIAL CAPITALS. YOU CAN STATE THAT
IN OUR OPINION A MILITARY STALEMATE HAS EXISTED IN CAMBODIA
FOR SOME MONTHS. WE SEE NO REPEAT NO POSSIBILITY OF KHMER
COMMUNISTS ACHIEVING A DECISIVE MILITARY VICTORY NOW OR IN
THE FUTURE.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, CONTINUED MILITARY PRESSURE BY COMMUNIST
SIDE CAN ACHIEVE NOTHING BUT FURTHER BLOODSHED AND BITTER-
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NESS. THIS IN TURN WILL RENDER SETTLEMENT MORE DIFFICULT

TO ACHIEVE.

GKR HAS REPEATEDLY STATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH THEIR ADVERSARIES. IT REMAINS
ONLY FOR KHMER COMMUNISTS TO RECOGNIZE INEVITABILITY OF
COMPROMISE AND TO BEGIN EXPLORING WAYS TO ACHIEVE IT.

3. SOVIET UNION CAN BE ASSURED THAT US CONTINUE TO FAVOR
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF CAMBODIA CONFLICT AND THAT WE FAVOR
COMMENCEMENT OF TALKS AMONG KHMER PARTIES. WE ARE NOT
RPT NOT WILLING HOWEVER TO SHOULDER ASIDE LEGITIMATE
GOVERNMENT OF KHMER REPUBLIC TO BEGIN DIRECT TALKS WITH
KHMER COMMUNISTS ANY MORE THAN WE WERE WILLING TO SHOULDER
ASIDE GVN WHEN PARIS ACCORDS WERE NEGOTIATED. IT IS OUR
FIRM OPINION THAT ANY LASTING SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA MUST
BE ACHIEVED BY THE KHMER THEMSELVES AND THE SOONER THEY
GET DOWN TO BUSINESS THE BETTER. RUSH

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